

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

TERRACE, GRADIENT

(ft.)

CODE 600

1. Scope

Work shall consist of constructing the terrace channels, ridges, and filling and shaping as required.

2. Location

The location of the gradient terrace shall be as shown on furnished drawings or as staked in the field.

3. Public and private utilities

Utilities are defined to be overhead and underground power or communication lines, and pipelines. All utilities discovered to be in the work area are shown on the drawings or sketches. However, the absence of indicators on the drawings or sketches does not assure the nonexistence of utilities in the work area. The contractor is alerted to conduct his/her own search and discovery for utilities in order to lessen or avoid potential damages. The owner/operator shall complete TX-ENG-80, UTILITIES INVENTORY prior to layout or any ground disturbance and return it to an NRCS representative.

4. Site preparation

All dead furrows, ditches, or gullies shall be filled before constructing the terrace or shall be part of the construction. All old terraces, fence rows, hedge rows, trees, and other obstructions shall be removed, as necessary, to install a farmable system.

5. Materials

Materials for earthfills shall be obtained from excavation in the channel or other designated areas, and shall be free of objectionable materials as brush, roots, and rock particles that endanger the performance of the terrace.

6. Placement of earthfill

The terraces shall be constructed according to alignment, grade, and cross section specified on the drawings, or staked in the field with specified overfill for settlement and the channel graded to drain reasonably well. All fills shall be full-bodied with cross section conforming to that specified at all stations. All

elevation readings taken to determine constructed terrace dimensions shall be taken in a person's footprint that has had their full weight in it.

Terrace ridges constructed across gullies or depressions shall be compacted by machinery travel or by other suitable means to insure proper functioning of the terrace.

The terrace channels, side slopes, ridges, cut areas, and fill areas shall be finished to a smoothness so the surface can be readily traveled upon by farm type equipment. The surface of the finished terrace shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike finish. If necessary, topsoil shall be stockpiled and spread over excavations and other areas to facilitate restoration of productivity. If vegetation is required, seedbed preparation, fertilizing, seeding, and mulching shall comply with specifications in technical guides.

7. Land forming

Land forming of the terrace interval, terrace channel and all borrow areas is required as part of terrace construction. These areas are to be finished to a smoothness that can be readily traveled upon by farm type equipment. Land forming shall meet the following requirements:

*(a). Borrow areas on both sides of the terrace shall be filled and/or shaped to blend with slopes above and below the terrace, or as specified in **Section 10, Construction details**, or as shown on attached drawings. Any ditch or depression at the bottom of the terrace back slope shall be filled and smoothed so that drainage will be away from the terrace and not parallel to it.*

(b). Gullies, concentrated flow areas and/or washes in the terrace interval shall be filled and/or shaped sufficiently to allow unimpeded farming operations.

8. Outlets

The outlet of the terrace shall be equal in square feet to the requirements for channel capacity of the terrace.

Provisions must be made to prevent piping if underground conduits are located under terrace ridges. Mechanical compaction, water packing, trench sidewall sloping, and installation and backfill of conduit trenches early enough to allow adequate settlement are methods that can be used. The materials used for the inlet and the conduit shall be suitable for the purpose intended (see standard 606).

9. Measurement

Measurement for the amount of terraces completed will be determined by measuring the length in feet of the terrace channel or ridge as applicable.

10. Construction details

Attachment TX-ENG-80, UTILITIES INVENTORY